



Federal Drug-Related Data Systems Inventory

Report of the Drug Control Research,
Data, and Evaluation Committee

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Executive Office of the President
Office of National Drug Control Policy

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Data, and Evaluation Committee

Executive Summary

This is the second Report from ONDCP's Advisory Committee on Drug Control Research, Data, and Evaluation (DCRDE). The Report's first edition was published in January 1999. The primary purpose of the Report is to discuss some of the work and present some of the products that ONDCP and its Federal partners have engaged in over the past three to five years. The work of the DCRDE and its three Subcommittees is to define and coordinate the research agenda for national drug control. This Report discusses some of the issues, and documents some of the actions and accomplishments in this regard. Additionally, the Report provides an update to information regarding ONDCP's legislative mandates and reporting requirements.

The Report from the DCRDE Committee summarizes the ongoing work of ONDCP's Subcommittee on Data, Evaluation and Interagency Coordination (the Data Subcommittee). A major part of the Report is an updated *Inventory of Federal Drug-Related Data Sources*, which includes more than eighty data sources that cover drug demand and drug supply topics. The Inventory is produced by ONDCP in partnership with the Federal drug-control agencies.

The following is a list of principles that incorporate issues and data requirements of the National Drug Control Strategy's national priorities, as well as ONDCP's legislative mandates for reporting. In most instances, each principle includes an example of action item(s) to demonstrate what is needed to achieve the stated objective. These principles reflect ONDCP's ongoing effort to examine Federal drug control data systems from the perspectives of a broad representation of experts in the Federal, State, academic, and private sectors.

- **Promote research-based initiatives that provide the basis for national drug control policies that *prevent* drug abuse before it starts; *provide treatment for those that need it*; and *disrupt the economic base of drug markets*.**

1. Engage states, cities, and counties in demand reduction initiatives that support ONDCP's national priorities to stop drug use initiation; to intervene with those who have initiated; and to improve treatment service delivery to those in need of treatment.
2. Pursue economic studies of illegal drug markets that provide information and input into policymaker's understanding of drug trafficking, including how drug demand interacts with drug prices and availability, for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of the nation's supply reduction efforts.
- **Encourage the substance abuse prevention community to increase research efforts that focus the science on a broader array of strategies in order to evaluate the effectiveness of different drug prevention efforts. Additional research is needed to examine:**
 1. Which of the non-instructional, i.e., non classroom based modalities are effective for reducing drug use;
 2. Whether prevention activities affect the subsequent drug use of various user groups differently; to what extent do prevention messages spread to individuals and groups not initially targeted, and can this "diffusion effect," be harnessed to reduce drug use in high risk peer groupings; and what prevention content is most effective, with which groups;
 3. Whether prevention activities affect the quantity, frequency or problems associated with use of non-gateway substances;
 4. How the timing, duration, and characteristics of the deliverer condition the effects of prevention programs. Does the effectiveness of prevention effects vary relative to the timing of drug epidemics? Are there important tradeoffs between total dosage delivered and timing of delivery prevention messages?

- **Further opportunities to conduct research on the health risks, and medical and social consequences associated with drug use for purposes of defining the scope and magnitude of the problem.**
1. The emergency department component of DAWN is being enhanced to improve geographic and population coverage for information on drug use health consequences. The targeted metropolitan area expansion will improve precision of estimates and reduce dependence on individual facilities. The DAWN mortality component is being improved to include all jurisdictions in 48 metropolitan areas, although the expansion from 43 to 48 metropolitan areas does not represent a probability sample.
 2. The ADAM program has been redesigned to be a probability-based sample and has expanded from 23 to 35 sites. However, in the absence of further planned expansion it is doubtful national estimates of drug use among the arrestee population can be produced.
- **Establish surveillance systems to provide continuous feedback, and outcomes monitoring of the treatment system's service delivery and performance, including treatment program alternatives for the drug-involved criminal justice population.**
1. Develop and implement programmatic support and resources to conduct evaluation research to examine the impact and effectiveness of drug treatment court programs in reducing recidivism for policy analysis.
 2. Stimulate and fund research that will evaluate treatment resource allocations and the cost-effectiveness of various sanctions employed against drug users and among traffickers within the criminal justice systems; and
 3. Ensure that drug resource allocation policies are based on treatment cost-effectiveness studies and are guided by outcome research.

- **Continue support for a broad-based system of research-to-practice technology transfer of new information to maintain a refreshed substance abuse treatment infrastructure for use by field practitioners and the research community at large.**
1. Encourage program policy and funding initiatives to ensure that research findings are mainstreamed and include greater access to the community, that data are available to encourage greater secondary analysis, and improved dissemination and use of the results; and
 2. Sponsor or cosponsor research symposiums with Federal and non-Federal organizations related to information requirements and national drug control policy.
- **ONDCP should use its office to enhance information coordination and work with technical agencies that conduct data collections and research, in order to evaluate and assess the impact of potential changes on the nation's drug control programs and policies.**
1. Commission ONDCP with responsibility for developing a framework for an annual retrospective presentation, or "report card," of the findings by the leading indicators of counter drug control initiatives to further guide its performance measurement system.

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